

# Human Relations Task Force

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

## *Minutes*

### **I. Roll Call: 6:45 PM**

Present: Dagley, Garrick, Inouye, Jackle, Nees

Late: Rodriguez (arrived at 7:08 PM)

Absent: Chancellor, Dekle, Goldenberg, Police Liaison Sgt. Smith

Staff Liaison: Kuhnke

HB Police Detective James Allard (substitute for Sgt. Smith)

### **II. Welcoming Remarks by Ken Inouye, Chair**

Inouye welcomed HRTF members to the May meeting

### **III. Public Comments: None**

### **IV. Motion to Approve Minutes: April 5, 2011**

***Moved by Dagley, Seconded by Jackle***

***Approved 5, No 0, Absent 4 (Chancellor, Dekle, Goldenberg, Rodriguez)***

### **V. Special Reports/Presentations: None**

### **VI. Status Reports:**

1. Report of HRTF Donation Account balance

Kuhnke reported a current balance of \$1,276.64.

2. Report of Hate Crimes/Incidents

In the absence of Sgt. Smith, Detective James Allard described three incidents:

a) On the night of April 4, 2011 words demeaning Hispanics and African-Americans were written on a sign board at Spring View School. No suspects have been identified in this hate incident.

b) On April 16, 2011 at 6:25 PM an African-American male victim was pushed, shoved and shouted at by a small group of whites near Huntington Beach Lifeguard Tower 4. The victim and a suspect fought each other twice. This case is under investigation as a hate crime.

c) On April 26, 2011 an African-American male was arguing with his wife, a light-skinned Hispanic, on the 100 block of 7<sup>th</sup> Street when the suspect riding on his bicycle hit the African-American male victim on the head with a bottle, and used the "N-word" but there were no injuries or broken glass. The bicyclist has not been identified in this reported hate crime.

A discussion ensued on potential causes and preventive measures for hate crimes. Inouye noted that the OCHR's annual report stated that African-Americans are disproportionately targeted for hate crime/incidents in Orange County. Detective Allard stated that a large portion of hate crimes and incidents in Huntington Beach involve non-residents visiting the beach area.

3. Report of Orange County Human Relations (OCHR) News/Activities

Inouye discussed the OCHR Awards 40 Celebration on May 5<sup>th</sup>, stated that he would attend as the OCHR Vice Chair, and encouraged other HRTF members to also attend to represent the HRTF. Jackle and Inouye successfully nominated Past Mayor and former Council Liaison Ralph Bauer to be honored at this event.

4. Report of HB Coordinating Council Activities

Jackle reported that the speaker at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> luncheon meeting was Leslie Gilson, the restoration coordinator volunteer for the Norma Brandel Gibbs "Butterfly" Park. Gilson reviewed the exemplary volunteer efforts in restoring this Monarch butterfly habitat. Jackle also noted that HRTF Member Garrick was elected as HB

Coordinating Council President-elect. HRTF members discussed additional ways to more effectively match volunteers with HB community service opportunities, especially at this time of reduced resources.

**VII. Updates, Planning, and Possible Motions pertaining to the following events/programs:**

**1. Report of HRTF Student Representative Programs**

In the absence of Chancellor, Garrick distributed excerpts from the prior HRTF-sponsored survey of local school-based programs addressing diversity, ethnicity, or cultural heritage. HRTF members discussed approaches for an updated survey to provide needs-based input to next year's HRTF action plan to support each high school in the HB Union High School District and selected middle schools, and discussed ways to strengthen the student representative program in light of past experience.

**2. Report on HB Reads Activities**

Dagley reported that the HB Reads Committee is collecting suggestions for the book to be featured in 2012, preferably a reasonably-priced paperback book by a living author. The Book Suggestion Form is available at [www.hbread.org](http://www.hbread.org). Dagley, Jackle and Rodriguez indicated interest in continuing to serve on the HB Reads One Book Committee.

**3. Report of HRTF Fundraising Activities**

Dagley plans to mail fundraising letters to potential business sponsors and individual donors after he receives a list of names of local influential leaders approved for him to contact and to possibly include in the letterhead.

**4. Report of Federal Diversity Month planning and activities**

Dagley reported that he and Dekle met with Chris Cole, HB Specific Events Coordinator, who provided a specific event application that would need to be submitted to the Specific Events Committee for approval of a "Unity In the Community" Cultural Festival at HB Pier Plaza. A tentative date is available on Saturday, October 15. The event is envisioned as a co-sponsored city event with the task force developing the activities and providing the volunteers. Kuhnke reported that the Huntington Beach City Council recognized Asian/Pacific American Heritage on May 3, 2011 and will recognize Older Americans Month at the May 16, 2011 meeting.

**VIII. New Business and Possible Motion Pertaining to:**

**1. Review and consideration of need to develop a program in support of the Muslim Community**

Inouye discussed this issue with Maria Khani, a Muslim representative, who asked her colleagues for specific suggestions related to Huntington Beach but has received none yet. Inouye discussed involving interested citizens in "listening sessions" around Orange County to identify Islamic and Sikh relations issues and corrective actions.

**IX. Task Force Member Comments:**

Rodriguez, Jackle, and Garrick announced upcoming community events. Inouye thanked members for their continuing contributions. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM until June 6, 2011, at 6:45 PM at Huntington Beach Central Library, B Room.